

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
EASTERN DIVISION  
CIVIL ACTION NO. 5:15-cv-00097-BO

KIRSTEN MESSMER,

Plaintiff,

v.

DONNIE HARRISON, in his Official  
Capacity as Sheriff of Wake County, North  
Carolina, PAT McCRORY, in his Official  
Capacity as Governor of North Carolina,  
ROY COOPER, in his Official Capacity as  
Attorney General of North Carolina, and  
FRANK L. PERRY, in his Official  
Capacity as Secretary of the North  
Carolina Department of Public Safety,

Defendants.

**DECLARATION OF CHRISTOPHER J.  
BLAKE IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S  
MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES**

I, Christopher J. Blake, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, declare as follows:

1. I am over the age of 18 and am competent to make this Declaration. I have personal knowledge of the statements contained in this Declaration.

2. I am a partner with the law firm of Nelson Mullins Riley and Scarborough, LLP in its Raleigh, North Carolina office. I received my undergraduate degree from Pace University in 1983, and I graduated from the Catholic University of America law school in 1986. After completing law school, I was employed as a litigation attorney at Jones Day in Washington, DC, and Moore & Van Allen in Raleigh, North Carolina. I am licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia and in North Carolina, and I have practiced in Raleigh since 1988. I have been admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina since that time. My practice focuses on civil

litigation, primarily commercial and business litigation. I have litigated numerous cases in the Eastern District of North Carolina.

3. Based upon my experience and knowledge, I am familiar with the effort required for litigating a civil case in the Eastern District of North Carolina, specifically the amount of time that can be required to litigate such a matter. I also have knowledge of the prevailing billing rates for law firms in the Raleigh area whose attorneys represent clients in civil matters in the Eastern District of North Carolina.

4. I have reviewed the Declaration of Camden R. Webb setting forth the hourly billing rates for the lawyers representing the Plaintiffs in this matter and the time spent by members of their law firms.

5. In my opinion, the hourly rates charged by the attorneys who rendered legal services for the Plaintiff were, at the time rendered and today, within the range of prevailing market billing rates that have been charged and that are being charged by lawyers with the skill and experience of Plaintiff's counsel in the Eastern District of North Carolina. It is also my opinion that the time spent on the case is reasonable and reflects good billing judgment.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct

Executed on this the 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015.

  
Christopher J. Blake

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on August 28, 2015, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the following:

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WILLIAMS MULLEN

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